MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether the furniture ordered for use in stations in the Travancore territory could be used outside Travancore?

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR (*Vaikam cum Shertallai*): May I know the number of employees in the Travancore Section of the S. I. R.?

MR. K. GEORGE: Government have no information.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: May I know the amount of the highest salary that is paid to a Travancorean in the Travancore Section of the S. I. R.?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have no information.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE: Government have no objection to do so.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: May I know whether, according to the terms of the agreement between the Secretary of State and the State, there is any possibility of acquiring the whole concern and working it as a State railway?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this question.

Audit of accounts of the South Indian Railway.

27. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have investigated into the working of the South Indian Railway; and

(*b*) whether they have audited the Railway accounts at any time, if so, when, and the result of such audit and investigation; and if there is any report, whether they will lay the same on the table for the information of the Council?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) No. The accounts of the Company are audited by an auditor appointed by the Secretary of State and such audited accounts are accepted by Government.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to request the British Government to permit our auditors to audit the accounts?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Government will be in a position to consider that question only in the year 1945.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is it a fact, Sir, that in all the railway stations in the State the booking clerks or the station masters who sell tickets refuse to receive the Travancore one cash coin?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Government have no information.

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MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is it a fact that these station masters and booking clerks receive from one cash to three cash in excess of the ordinary rates when charges are paid in Travancore coin?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Government have no information.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter with a view to see that these sums are credited in the railway accounts?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Necessary enquiries shall be made.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: What is the significance of the year 1945?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The present agreement between the Secretary of State and the South Indian Railway Company ceases to have effect in the year 1945.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know, Sir, to clarify the issue, whether there is any separate agreement so far as the extension of the South Indian Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum is concerned?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: There is an agreement.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether that agreement has anything to do with the agreement in opening the Quilon-Shencotta line?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The Quilon-Trivandrum line is treated as an extension of the Tinnevelly-Quilon line.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether the cost of the extension was met by the Travancore Government?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether there is any agreement as far as the profit from the line is concerned?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: If in any year, there is a profit, after meeting the working expenses and the interest on debentures and on the advances made by the Secretary of State, the Travancore Government will be allowed interest up to 4 per cent. on the advances made by the State for the construction of the Quilon-Trivandrum line.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: And in case of any loss?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: In case of loss on the working of the whole line the Travancore Government will not get any interest, or will get only such interest in proportion to the loss on the capital invested by them for the construction of the Quilon-Trivandrum line.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know, Sir, if the profits go beyond, say 100 per cent., is it the understanding that the Travancore Government will get only four per cent. interest?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The Travancore Government will get full 4 per cent. interest on the money that has been advanced for the construction of the Quilon-Trivandrum line and if there is any

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further surplus the Government will get a share from the Secretary of State according to the mileage of the line running through the Travancore territory.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: That is, what is the nature?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I will explain. Suppose there is an excess profit over and above what is due to us as interest on the capital invested on the line from Quilon to Trivandrum. In that case a portion of the profit will go to the South Indian Railway and another portion will go to the Secretary of State. From the Secretary of State we will get a portion according to our mileage.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know, Sir, for auditing the South Indian Railway accounts, who makes the appointment of the auditor?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The appointment of the auditor is made by the Secretary of State.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Has the South Indian Railway Company or the Travancore Government any voice in the appointment of the auditor?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: No voice.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Is the appointment to be approved by the Travancore Government?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Not necessary.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: So, is it not in order that we must have an officer to audit the S. I. R. accounts?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: At present we have no auditor. So long as the present agreement is in force, we are precluded from raising the question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: According to the terms of the agreement we have no power now. Is it not included in the terms of the agreement that we should have a voice in the appointment of the auditor?

MR R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: According to the agreement there is a separate clause dealing with the question of audit. We cannot go beyond that clause. According to the terms of agreement, the accounts of the Company have to be audited by an officer appointed by the Secretary of State.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know, Sir, whether in the construction of new stations in the Trivandrum branch of the S. I. R. our Government have any voice? That is, suppose half a dozen new stations are to be constructed, are the expenses to be met by the Travancore Government or the S. I. R. or shared by the two?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: The question has to be made clear. I wish to know from the member whether he refers to the stations to be constructed between Quilon and Trivandrum. If it is so, the approval of the Travancore Government is necessary.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: If approval is necessary, is the estimate for the new construction submitted to the Travancore Government also for their approval?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Yes. The estimates are submitted to and sanctioned by the Travancore Government.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ റയിൽ വേവരവുചിലവു കണക്കാക്കുന്നതു് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനകത്തുള്ള ലൈൻ ആസ്പദമാക്കിയാണോ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: തിരുവനന്തപുരം മുതൽ തിരുനൽവേലിവരെയുള്ള ലൈനിനെ ആസ്പദമാക്കിയാണ്.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: Secretary of State മായിട്ടുള്ള ഉടമ്പടിയിൽ തിരുനൽവേലിക്കപ്പുറം ലൈൻ ഇറക്കുന്നതിനു നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അനുവാദം വേണമെന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: തിരുനൽവേലിക്കപ്പുറം ലൈൻ ഇറക്കുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നമ്മുടെ അനുവാദം ആവശ്യമില്ല.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: വിരുദുനഗർ ലൈൻ ഇറക്കുന്നതുനിമിത്തം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു നഷ്ടമില്ലേ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: വിരുദുനഗർ ലൈൻ ഇറക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് തിരുവനന്തപുരം തിരുനൽവേലി ലൈനിനു സ്വല്പം നഷ്ടമുണ്ടു്.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ആ നഷ്ടത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറു വല്ല എഴുത്തുകുത്തും നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: എഴുത്തുകുത്തു നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്.

Commitment of Government in the railway enterprise.

28. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have prepared and published any report or memorandum containing a full history and account of their commitments in the railway enterprise?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: No.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to publish one for the information of the people?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Government do not consider it necessary.

Control over Railway lines from Chackai to Tampanur.

29. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

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